

ATTACHMENT B Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A slat for a venetian blind having front and rear longitudinally extending edge portions-(3) connected by a main portion-(2), where each of said edge portions-(3) comprises a first portion-(3') extending laterally relative to the main portion-(2) and an opposing second portion-(4) forming a space-(3'') therebetween, said edge portions-(3) being furthermore provided with a gap-(6), through which gap-(6) said space-(3'') is accessible from outside, the width of said gap-(6) being less than the maximum distance between said first-(3') and second-(4) portions, characterised in that said gap-(6) being used for insertion of attachment means-(12, 21, 22) into said space-(3''), without the attachment means penetrating the slat.

2. (Currently Amended) A slat for a venetian blind according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said second portions-(4) at the ends hereof facing each other are provided with attachment portions-(5) extending towards the lower surface of said main portion-(2), and that said gap-(6) is provided between the attachment portions-(5) and said lower surface.

3.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A slat according to ~~any of the preceding claim 1 to 11,~~
~~characterised~~characterized in that at least one of said slats is provided with a bottom
panel ~~(7)~~ formed for releasable insertion into said gaps ~~(6)~~ formed in the edge portions
~~(3)~~ of the slats ~~(2)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A slat according to claim 12, ~~characterised~~characterized in
that said bottom panel ~~(7)~~ is provided with a pattern of passages ~~(8)~~ through the bottom
panel.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A slat according to ~~any of the preceding claims 11 to 15~~
~~12,~~ ~~characterised~~characterized in that the volume ~~(10)~~ formed between the bottom
panel ~~(7)~~ and the lower surface of the main portion ~~(2)~~ of the slats is partially ~~of~~ or
completely filled by an acoustic damping material, or provided with a fabric extending
over at least a portion of the bottom panel.

17.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An attachment means for releasable attachment of slats
according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 20,~~ ~~characterised in that said attachment~~
~~means (12, 21, 22)~~ is formed for insertion through said gap ~~(6)~~ into said space ~~(3'')~~ for
engagement with the boundaries ~~(3', 4, 5)~~ of said space ~~(3'')~~.

~~characterised~~characterized by comprising a central loop portion connected to a first leg portion lying substantially in the plane of the central loop portion and connected to second and third leg portions lying in a plane forming an angle (A) relative to the plane of the central loop portion and the first leg portion.

22.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind for covering large window panels comprising:

- a plurality of parallel elongated slats according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 20~~, furthermore comprising:
 - at least two pairs of tilt cords ~~(19)~~ for releasable attachment to said front and rear edge portions ~~(3)~~ of the slats by means of ~~the an~~ attachment means ~~(12)~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims 21 or 22~~ for releasable attachment of the slats, formed for insertion through said gap into said space for engagement with the boundaries of said space, and characterized by comprising a central loop portion connected to a first leg portion lying substantially in the plane of the central loop portion and connected to second and third leg portions lying in a plane forming an angle (A) relative to the plane of the central loop portion and the first leg portion;
 - at least two pairs of lift cords ~~(20)~~ running substantially parallel with said tilt cords ~~(19)~~ and attached to the lowermost of said slats.

28. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 27, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that each of said pairs of tilt cords-(19) and said pairs of lift cords-(20) are operated by separate lift- and tilt mechanisms-(30) provided on a common drive shaft-(33) driven for rotation by a common drive means-(34).

29. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 27, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that each of said pairs of tilt cords-(19) and said pairs of lift cords-(20) are operated by separate lift- and tilt mechanisms-(30) provided on a separate drive shaft-(33) for each of said mechanisms-(30) driven for rotation by separate drive means-(34).

30. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim ~~27~~²⁸ or 29, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that each of said lift- and tilt mechanisms-(30) comprises a tubular member-(36) mounted for rotation with and axial displacement over said ~~a~~ drive shaft-(33) and guide means-(46) for maintaining the lift cords-(20) in their proper axial position and for directing the lift cords-(20) to the outer circumferential surface of said tubular member-(36), whereby the lift cords-(20) upon rotation of said tubular member-(36) will become helically wound on or off the circumferential surface of the tubular member-(36) resulting in the slats-(2) being raised or lowered as the tubular member-(36) rotates.

31. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 30, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tubular member-(36) on the outer circumferential surface

~~hereof~~ thereof is provided with a single thread-~~(39)~~ for accommodating each of said lift cords-~~(20)~~ of a given pair of lift cords in the same thread.

32. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 30, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tubular member-~~(36)~~ on the outer circumferential surface ~~hereof~~ thereof is provided with a double thread for accommodating each of said lift cords-~~(20)~~ of a given pair of lift cords in separate threads hereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim-~~31 or 32~~ 30, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that (a) said tubular member on the outer circumferential surface thereof is provided with a thread for accommodating each of said lift cords of a given pair of lift cords in the same thread, and (b) said single/double thread provided on the outer circumferential surface of the tubular member (36) being in engagement with a corresponding thread (44) in a stationary bearing (40) supporting the tubular member (36).

34. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim ~~31, 32 or 33~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said thread(s) is(are) trapezoidal.

35. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 34, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that a gap-~~(45)~~ is formed between said thread(s) on the tubular member-~~(36)~~ and on the stationary bearing-~~(40)~~ for accommodation of the lift cords-~~(20)~~ is said gap-~~(45)~~.

36. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to ~~any of the preceding claims 28 to 35, characterised~~ characterized in that said lift- and tilt mechanism-~~(30)~~ comprises tilt means for connection to the tilt cords-~~(19)~~ of a given pair of lift- and tilt cords, said tilt means comprising a cylindrical tilt house-~~(41)~~ provided coaxially about said drive shaft ~~(33)~~ for co-rotation herewith, around the outer circumferential surface of which tilt house ~~(41)~~ there is provided a tilt member-~~(42)~~ following said rotation of the tilt house-~~(41)~~ due to friction between the tilt member-~~(42)~~ and the tilt house-~~(41)~~ over a predetermined angular range determined by first means-~~(48, 49)~~ provided on the tilt member-~~(42)~~ during said rotation being ~~broad~~ brought into contact with corresponding stationary abutment means-~~(50, 51)~~, where said tilt cords-~~(19)~~ are wound around said tilt member ~~(42)~~, so that rotation of the tilt member-~~(42)~~ in one direction makes one tilt cord of the given pair of tilt cords unwind from the tilt member-~~(42)~~ and the other tilt cord of the given pair of tilt cords wind upon the tilt member-~~(42)~~.

37. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 36, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tilt member-~~(42)~~ is radially resilient.

38. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 37, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tilt member-~~(42)~~ is provided with an axially extending gap-~~(47)~~.

39. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to ~~any of the preceding claims 36, 37 or 38, characterised~~ characterized in that said tilt member-~~(42)~~ is a tubular

member comprising a main portion-(54) and a collar-(53) defining an intermediate groove-(52) for accommodating the tilt cords-(19).

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 28-or-29, characterised characterized in that said drive means-(34) is/are a motor/motors fixedly accommodated within said drive shaft(s)-(33).

42.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to ~~any of the preceding claims 28 to 35, characterised~~ characterized in that said lift- and tilt mechanism comprises tilt means for connection to the tilt cords-(19) of one or more pair(s) of lift- and tilt cords, said tilt means comprising a tilt drum-(60) provided coaxially about said drive shaft-(33) for co-rotation herewith, around the outer circumferential surface of which tilt drum-(60) there is provided a tilt member-(61) following said rotation of the tilt drum-(60) due to friction between the tilt member-(61) and the tilt drum-(60) over a predetermined angular range determined by first abutment means-(63) provided on the tilt member-(61) during said rotation being brought into contact with an abutment tongue-(65) provided on a rotatable abutment ring-(64) such that a further rotation of the tilt drum-(60) will result in the rotatable abutment ring-(64) rotating around the tilt drum-(60) until further rotation is being prevented by engagement of a portion of the rotatable abutment ring-(64) with a

stationary abutment means ~~(68)~~, where said tilt cords ~~(19)~~ are wound around said tilt member ~~(61)~~, so that rotation of the tilt member ~~(61)~~ in one direction makes one tilt cord of the given pair of tilt cords unwind from the tilt member ~~(61)~~ and the other tilt cord of the given pair of tilt cords wind upon the tilt member ~~(61)~~.

45. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 44, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tilt member ~~(61)~~ is radially resilient.

46. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 44, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said tilt member ~~(61)~~ is provided with an axially extending slit ~~(62)~~.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A venetian blind according to claim 44, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said portion of the rotatable abutment ring ~~(64)~~ is provided with circumferentially spaced end faces ~~(67)~~ such that the circumferential extension of said portion is used to set the rotation range of the tilt member ~~(61)~~ around the tilt drum ~~(60)~~.

49.-53. (Canceled)